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Eisenhower Carrier Strike Group to Return

Norfolk, Va. – Nearly 6,000 Sailors will return to their homeport as the Eisenhower Carrier Strike Group (IKE CSG) returns Wednesday, May 23, after supporting Maritime Security Operations in the 5th Fleet Area of Responsibility. The carrier strike group deployed Oct. 3, 2006. This deployment is the longest carrier deployment since 2003.

Commanded by Rear Adm. Allen G. Myers, Commander, Carrier Strike Group 8 (CCSG 8), IKE CSG includes the aircraft carrier USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69), with its embarked air wing, Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 7 and embarked Destroyer Squadron (CDS) Twenty-Eight; guided-missile cruiser USS Anzio (CG 68); guided-missile destroyer USS Ramage (DDG 61); guided missile-destroyer USS Mason (DDG 87) and the fast attack submarine USS Newport News (SSN 750), all homeported in Norfolk.

USS Newport News (SSN 750) returned home April 24. Carrier Air Wing 7 will return on May 22.

The strike group conducted historical dual CSG operations with the John C. Stennis (CVN 64) CSG, including a dual-carrier exercise in the Arabian Gulf demonstrating multi-dimensional task force operations. CDS 28 led Task Force 152 in the central and southern Arabian Gulf which consisted of units from 19 coalition nations. As IKE CSG air defense commander, Anzio consistently provided the situational awareness and capability to neutralize any threat to the strike group. Mason participated in the first ever combined CTF 150/152 pulse operations including operations in the Strait of Hormuz. Ramage conducted over 20 queries of vessels and visits of local mariners, as well as over 400 maritime awareness calls in support of

Operation Sea Dragon. CVW 7 has flown approximately 12,000 sorties and has put in more than 31,400 flight hours since deployment began, providing air support for multinational coalition forces on the ground in support of various operations in the U.S. Naval Forces Central Command Area of Responsibility.

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NOTE: Media partners wishing to cover the arrival of USS Eisenhower, USS Anzio, USS Ramage and USS Mason should contact Second Fleet Public Affairs at (757) 443-9850 ext 47129.